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# About the Authors

**Kaitlin A. Briggs**, EdD, is Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies and the lead faculty member for honors thesis research at the University of Southern Maine. Her primary research area is auto/biography studies, with a focus on the seventy-year diary of American composer and music educator Dorothy Smith Dushkin (1903–1992). Her most recent publication is an entry on Dushkin for *American National Biography* (2012, Oxford University Press).

**Richard Chess** is Roy Carroll Professor of Honors Arts & Sciences at the University of North Carolina Asheville. He also directs the Center for Jewish Studies at UNC Asheville. He has published three books of poetry, *Tekiah*, *Chair in the Desert*, and *Third Temple*, and he is an invited regular contributor to “Good Letters,” the blog of *Image: A Journal of Art, Faith, and Mystery*.

**Kevin W. Dean** is Director of the Honors College, Professor of Communication Studies, and advisor to the Honors Student Association and *Omicron Delta Kappa* at West Chester University. He has presented research about honors both nationally and internationally, including at the 2011 and 2012 NCHC conferences. He has a PhD from the University of Maryland, an MA from Miami University (Ohio), and a BA from Bowling Green University.

**Don Dingledine** received his MA in English and his PhD in American literature from Temple University. As Associate Professor of English and Honors Council member at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, he teaches nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature (including a seminar on *Moby-Dick*) as well as interdisciplinary, composition, and literature courses in the University Honors Program.

**David Dunbar** is Associate Professor of Science at Cabrini College. Dunbar's main research interests include molecular genetics of salt-loving microbes, understanding the biodiversity of bacteriophages, animal DNA barcoding, and macroinvertebrates as an indicator of stream health. Macroinvertebrate studies dovetail nicely with Dunbar's passion for fly fishing for trout.

**Trisha Folds-Bennett** is Dean of the Honors College and Associate Professor of Psychology at the College of Charleston. She consults frequently with non-profits that focus on youth development. Her research addresses how young children develop the ability to think strategically about the physical and social world.

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**Lynne Goodstein**, formerly Associate Vice Provost and Director of the Honors Program, is currently a professor of sociology at the University of Connecticut. Her most recent scholarship is on retention, graduation, and program completion among honors students.

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**Maria Jerinic** is a visiting assistant professor of English at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She teaches courses for the UNLV Honors College and has co-presented papers with Kate Wintrol at the 2011 and 2012 NCHC conferences. She is also an editor for *Topics for Victorian Literature and Culture*, published by Cambridge University Press.

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**Marie Leichter** is the director of programming and an adjunct faculty member at the West Virginia University Honors College. In 2010, she earned her doctorate in instructional design and technology from West Virginia University. Last year, her peers and students recognized her with the John R. Williams Outstanding Teacher Award.

**Julie Levinson** is Director of the Honors Program and Associate Professor of Film at Babson College. She is the author of *The American Success Myth on Film* and editor of the forthcoming *Alexander Payne: Interviews*. Her published work focuses on cultural and film history, metafictional narrative, and documentary film.

**Richard Mandel** is Associate Professor of Law and former Associate Dean and Director of the Honors Program at Babson College. His publications include a number of articles and chapters regarding entrepreneurial law and the legal problems and opportunities confronting small businesses.

**Robyn S. Martin** is a lecturer in the honors program at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff. She teaches courses in outdoor-themed, place-based experiential education, twentieth-century history and pop culture, and sustainability, among others. She received her MA in rhetoric and composition and plans to pursue her PhD in interdisciplinary studies in the future.

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**James Pfrehm** completed a PhD in German linguistics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2007. In addition to teaching and conducting research on all aspects of language as an assistant professor of German at Ithaca College, he enjoys exploring new venues of instructional technology and writing plays. He has been teaching “Cultural Encounters with Ithaca” for three years in the Ithaca College Honors Program.

**Stephanie Podjed** is a freshman at the University of Florida working towards a BS in astronomy, possibly double-majoring in physics. Her interests include art; research on Black Holes, Supernovae, and Exoplanets; and French language and culture, which is why she is considering a minor in French and Francophone Studies.

**Lisa Ratmansky** is Director for the Center of Teaching & Learning at Cabrini College. Since founding the center in 2007, she has designed multiple types of faculty development including mini-grants to support faculty research and pedagogical explorations, summer academies to promote engaged pedagogies, monthly round tables for new faculty, and one-on-one work with faculty supporting their enhanced scholarship on teaching and learning.

**Robert Spurrier**, a former president and secretary of NCHC, is Director of the Honors College and Professor of Political Science at Oklahoma State University. He has been a facilitator for NCHC’s Institutes to train Site Visitors and has served as an honors external review team member or consultant on forty-nine occasions.

**Robert Sullivan** is Director of the Ithaca College Honors Program. He is also a member of the speech communication department and is affiliated with the communication and culture program, the legal studies program, and the history department. He is director of the classical studies minor program and teaches courses in classical rhetorical theory, introductory and advanced public communication, legal argumentation, propaganda, and communication ethics. He also maintains lively scholarly interests in argument theory and propaganda.

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**Kate Wintrol** is Assistant Professor and Instruction Librarian at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She teaches honors history classes and is the libraries' liaison to the UNLV Honors College. She earned her MA in early European history from UNLV and her MLIS from the University of North Texas. Her research interests include ancient Greek athletics, medieval visionary women, and historical representation in films.

**Stephen A. Yoder** directs the honors program at the School of Business of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He is an assistant professor and teaches the legal environment of business, leadership, corporate governance, and strategy. He has published recently in the *Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council* and the *Journal of Law and Commerce* of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.